

Focus Schools 2013-14: An Overview

Presented by: Michigan Department of Education

Focus Schools 2013/14

- What is a Focus School?
- How was our school identified as a Focus School?
- How can I review the data regarding this designation?
- What does this mean for our school?
- What supports will be provided to assist with this effort?
- What are the next steps?



What is a Focus School?

 Focus Schools are identified as the ten percent (10%) of Michigan schools having the widest gap in student achievement between their lowest and highest performing students



How was our school identified as a Focus School?

- The Top to Bottom Ranking uses three metrics:
- ✓ Achievement
- ✓ Improvement in Achievement
- √ Gaps in Achievement
- For more detail about the metric used to identify Focus Schools, please visit:
 - http://mi.gov/focusschools



Where can we see our data?

 The 2012/13 Top-to-Bottom Individual School Lookup Tool that shows all three components of a Focus School's profile can be found upon public release (August 2013) at

http://mi.gov/ttb

- An embargoed preview of each Focus school's lookup page was emailed to district Superintendents in July
- More information on Focus Schools can be found at: www.michigan.gov/focusschools



All Focus Schools

- Focus Schools are in a four-year cohort beginning with their first year of identification (2013 cohort this year)
- This designation will appear on the school's Scorecard. If a 2013 cohort school is no longer identified in 2017-18, the school is no longer listed as a Focus School and leaves its cohort.
- Any year between now and 2017-18 in which a school is not identified as a Focus School, the requirements and supports are conditionally suspended.
- If a school is not identified and then re-identified between now and 2017-18, the requirements and supports match its cohort year.



- Participate in the Superintendent's
 Dropout Challenge: Identify 10 15
 students who are at risk due to:
 - -Attendance
 - -Behavior Problems
 - -Course/Class Proficiency

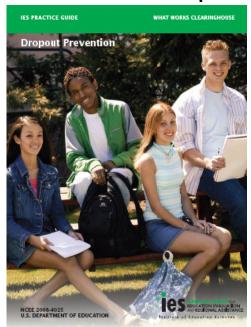


Superintendent's Dropout Challenge resources:

•MDE website:

www.michigan.gov/dropoutchallenge

•IES Practice Guide on Dropout Prevention





- 2. All districts with Focus Schools are expected to:
- Conduct Data Dialogues with their Focus Schools to identify teaching and learning priorities that are likely to close the achievement gap
- Ensure that the school post the identified teaching and learning priorities in ASSIST by November 25th and includes these in the spring revision of the SIP



 Student Data Reports are available with a secure log-in at MI School Data: https://www.mischooldata.org

 A protocol for <u>Data Driven Dialogues</u> by Bruce Wellman and Laura Lipton:

http://www.miravia.com/pdf/
DDD study guide final.pdf

 Focus School Diagnostic in ASSIST for posting the Teaching and Learning Priorities
 http://advanc-ed.org/mde - Online Resources and Tools – Guide to Completing and Submitting Priority and Focus Requirements



- 3. All districts with Focus Schools are expected to:
- Participate in district-level Data Dialogues on systems-level changes needed to support the rapid change needed in Focus Schools
- Implement necessary actions to facilitate change in support to Focus Schools
- Revise the District Improvement Plans to reflect these system improvements



 There is a self-assessment of district systems available at the Education Resource Strategies (ERS) website:

http://www.erstrategies.org/assessments/resource check

- Suggestions for district actions and resources aligned to the ERS Self-Assessment can be found at: http://mitoolkit.org
- There are resources for district improving planning and navigating the ASSIST website at: http://advanc-ed.org/mde - Guide to Completing and Submitting the DIP and DIP Flowchart



- 4. All Districts with Focus Schools are expected to:
- Monitor and evaluate the Focus School's School Improvement Plan to ensure that teaching and learning priorities to close the gap are included
- •Report to the School Board quarterly on the progress in the Focus Schools



- Michigan's Continuous School Improvement (MI CSI) work group has posted online training for the school improvement process: http://advanc-ed.org/mde Training – School Improvement Training Powerpoints – DO: Implement, Monitor and Evaluate this Plan
- MDE Evaluation Tool:
 http://michigan.gov/documents/mde/
 Program evaluation Writing SampleF 4151
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Title I Additional Requirements

- 5. Notify parents in the Focus School's attendance area of this identification by August 23. This is described in another presentation
- 6. There are Title I set-aside requirements that begin in the second year of identification for Title I schools and in the third year of identification for Title I districts. These are described in another presentation



Title I Additional Support

 All Title I District with Focus Schools will be assigned a District Improvement Facilitator who will work with central office staff for approximately 40 hours during the school year to provide assistance in completing the requirements.



Next Steps

- Develop a plan to address internal and community communications regarding the Focus school designation
- If your school is a Title I school, determine who from central office will be working with the MSU-assigned District Improvement Facilitator
- Begin to implement the requirements as outlined here



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